



Ref: FOIA Reference 2023/24-536

Date: 12th January 2024

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 13th November 2023 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding tourniquets

As of 1st November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM) manages two hospital sites – Royal Stoke University Hospital, and County Hospital (Stafford). Therefore the response below is for the two sites combined from that date where appropriate.

Q1 The type and number of tourniquets used for venepuncture and cannulation annually in your Hospital Trust, specifically whether you use single use (disposable) or reusable tourniquets and what material they are made out of.

A1 See below:

- Two main standardised tourniquets used, one band type and one easy open lock.
- Single use
- information not held for what material they are made from

Q2 If you use a mix of both, whether there is there any Trust policy for deciding which tourniquet to use.

A2 Not applicable

Q3 When you first introduced single use tourniquets, if you do use them.

A3 Not applicable

Q4 The cost per single use tourniquet/other type of tourniquet you use (or total annual cost)

A4 See attached

Q5 The MRSA infection rates at your Trust, for three years either side of your introduction of single use tourniquets, referring to bloodstream infections (bacteremias) rather than surface carriage.

A5 See below:

2010/11	Intro Yr -3	24
2011/12	Intro Yr -2	8
2012/13	Intro Yr - 1	0
2013/14	Yr of Introduction	7
2014/15	Intro Yr +1	6
2015/16	Intro Yr +2	5
2016/17	Intro Yr +3	2

Q6 Whether you implemented any of the following infection control procedures within the same year as implementing single use tourniquets:

- **Stricter hand hygiene policy**
- **Staff education programme on infection control procedures**
- **Screening of patients for MRSA on admission to hospital**
- **Isolation or decolonisation of patients who tested positive for MRSA**

A6 All of the above are standard IP procedures/policy - not related to when single use tourniquets were introduced

*Please note that any individuals identified do not give consent for their personal data to be processed for the purposes of direct marketing.

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An anonymised copy of this request can be found on the Trust's disclosure log, please note that all requests can be found at the following link: <http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/aboutus/Statutory-Policies-and-Procedures/Pages/Freedom-of-Information-Disclosure-Log.aspx>

This letter confirms the completion of this request. A log of this request and a copy of this letter will be held by the Trust.

If you have any queries related to the response provided please in the first instance contact my office.

Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and request an assessment of the manner in which the Trust has managed your request.

The Information Commissioner may be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF or via www.ico.org.uk.

Yours,



Rachel Montinaro
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records